

JOHN & JAMES DOBSON CARPET MILL (WEST PARCEL),
BUILDING NO. 1
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5383-A

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PA
51-PHILA,
695A-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
Mid-Atlantic Regional Office
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19106

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
JOHN AND JAMES DOBSON CARPET MILL (West Parcel), BUILDING 1
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Location:

4011-4055 Ridge Avenue
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

Significance:

The present structure, constructed in the 1940s, does not contribute to the historical character of the Dobson Mills complex due to its age.

Description:

Building 1 is a one-story utilitarian building constructed in the 1940s. It is of cinderblock and rubble construction with a low gable roof supported by a welded steel structure. The majority of the flat headed windows are capped by steel lintels outlined by brick soldier courses. Select sash on the south facade are arch headed with brick segmental arches.

History:

Building 1 is a mid-twentieth century building constructed on the foundations of an earlier mill structure built 1872/1873. That earlier rubblestone building was six-stories in height with a mansard roof. The building served as the core to the complex until its demolition circa 1936. The building housed the combing, spinning and pattern stamping functions of the carpet mill division. The building was originally interconnected on all floors with Building 4 and was connected via catwalk bridges to Building 5. Originally capped by a slate mansard roof, the building was altered to a low-hipped roof in the early twentieth century. The present building, constructed after the demolition of the carpet mill, is occupied by a commercial bakery.

The John and James Dobson Textile Mill was listed in the National Register in 1987. Building 1 was listed as the principal intrusion within the overall complex, because it was less than 50 years old. The proposed rehabilitation for the site includes the demolition of this structure.